

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/057 W

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R 260712Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: WU TEH AS NPC CHAIRMAN?

1. AFTER RECEIVING THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS, NUMEROUS REPORTS REGARDING THE CURRENT ROLE OF NPC VICE CHAIRMAN WU TEH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING IN HONG KONG. A BBC BROADCAST RECEIVED IN HONG KONG ON JULY 24 NOTED THAT WU TEH HAD ASSUMED CHU TEH'S DUTIES AS NPC CHAIRMAN, BUT DID NOT MENTION A FORMAL APPOINTMENT, OR ANY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WU WOULD "ACT" AS CHAIRMAN THROUGH RETAINING HIS TITLE AS VICE CHAIRMAN. THIS REPORT WAS PROBABLY BASED ON A REUTERS ARTICLE NOTING INDIAN OFFICIALS WERE NOTIFIED BY THE CHINESE THAT WU HAD BEEN "AUTHORIZED TO PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS" OF NPC CHAIRMAN, BUT WAS STILL DESIGNATED AS ICE CHAIRMAN.

2. NCNA ENGLISH AND BOTH PRC CONTROLLED CHINESE NEWSPAPERS
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HERE RAN STOCK STORIES ON WU'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE INDIAN

AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS AND LISTED WU SIMPLY AS NPC VICE CHAIRMAN. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF WU'S "ACTING" AS NPC CHAIRMAN OR OF HIS APPOINTMENT TO THAT POSITION.

3. ALTHOUGH IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY CONCLUSIVELY THAT WU HAS STEPPED INTO CHU TEH'S FORMER POST, HE DOES APPEAR TO BE A LOGICAL CHOICE. HE IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE THREE RANKING MEMBERS OF THE NPC, AND PRESUMABLY COULD PROVIDE CONTINUITY TO THIS CEREMONIAL POST. THE PRESIDENT OF BOTSWANA ARRIVES IN PEKING TODAY, AND IF HE IS MET BY WU, IT WILL PROVIDE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT WU HAS, AT LEAST DEFACTO, ASSUMED THE ROLE FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY CHU. CROSS

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